

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

The attached sheet of drawings includes changes to:

Figures 5 and 6

Attachment: Replacement Sheet

Annotated sheet showing changes

REMARKS

The Applicants thank the Examiner for total consideration given the present application. Claims 1-7 are currently pending. Claims 1-6 have been amended and claim 7 is new. Claims 1 and 7 are independent. Favorable reconsideration and allowance of the present application are respectfully requested in view of the following remarks and amendments.

SCOPE OF CLAIMS NOT NARROWED

Claims have been amended merely to address informal issues and to enhance clarity. It is intended that the scope of the claims remain substantially the same. Applicants respectfully submit that the amendments made to the claims do not add any new matter to the application and they are not narrowing. Accordingly, it is submitted that these amendments do not give rise to estoppel and, in future analysis, claims 1-6 are entitled to their full range of equivalents.

SPECIFICATION

The title has been amended to enhance consistency with the subject matter of the application.

DRAWINGS

The drawings are objected to for allegedly not showing every feature of the invention specified in the claims. Specifically, the Examiner alleges that the electric wave branch means comprising the first square main waveguide and the second square main waveguide is not shown in the figures. Applicants respectfully traverse this objection. Figures 1-4 and 7 clearly shows

the electric wave branch means (see elements 3, 4, 5, and 6a-6d of the above identified figures), the first square main waveguide (see element 2 of the above identified figures) and the second square main waveguide (see element 3 of the above identified figures). Accordingly, it is respectfully requested to withdraw this objection.

Applicants amended Figs. 5 and 6 to designate input/output terminals P2, P3, P4, and P5 and four-branch circuits 8 and 10.

35 U.S.C. § 112, 2ND PARAGRAPH REJECTION

Claims 1-6 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as allegedly being indefinite. As to independent claim 1, the Examiner points to various sections of the claim to assert that the claim is indefinite. Particularly, the Examiner asserts that “one electric wave”, “this electric wave”, “an electric wave of a basic mode”, and “an electric wave of a higher mode” render the claim unclear.

Initially, Applicants respectfully submit that the Examiner’s focus during examination for compliance with the requirement of definiteness in § 112, 2nd paragraph is whether the claim meets the threshold requirements of clarity and precision. To do this, the Examiner needs only ensure that the claims define the invention with a reasonable degree of particularity and distinctness. See MPEP § 2173.02.

Applicants submit that claim 1 defines the invention with a reasonable degree of particularity and distinctness.

Although Applicants do not necessarily agree with the Examiner’s assertion of indefiniteness, Applicants have amended claim 1 in order to expedite prosecution.

As to claims 4 and 5, the Examiner asserts that the phrase “which is blocked by short circuit plate” renders the claims indefinite. Although Applicants do not necessarily agree with the Examiner’s assertion of indefiniteness, Applicants have amended claims 4 and 5 in order to expedite prosecution.

As to claims 6, the Examiner asserts that the phrase “an electric wave of a higher mode” renders the claim indefinite. Although Applicants do not necessarily agree with the Examiner’s assertion of indefiniteness, Applicants have amended claim 6 in order to expedite prosecution.

In view of the aforementioned, Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to reconsider and withdraw the rejection based on § 112, second paragraph.

NEW CLAIM

New claim 7 is directed to a method similar in scope of amended claim 1. Applicants respectfully submit that claim 7 clearly describes the metes and bounds of the invention and, thus, satisfies § 112, second paragraph.

CONCLUSION

In view of the above amendment, applicant believes that the pending application is in condition for allowance.

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Ali M. Imam Reg. No. 58,755 at

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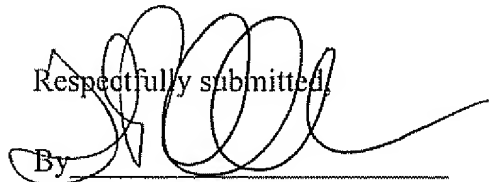
Docket No : 1163-0516PUS1

the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37.C.F.R. §§1.16 or 1.14; particularly, extension of time fees.

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Respectfully submitted,



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